

Message Text

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42

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ADP-00 /010 W
----- 040769

R 131220 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2864
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 DAKAR 1016/1

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCUL, SG
SUB: PAN AFRICAN- U. S. TRACK MEET

REF: DEPT A-2066, MARCH 7

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY LEARNED FROM SCSA SECRETARY GENERAL GANGA OF ATMOSPHERE OF DISSATISFACTION AND FINANCIAL STRESS AGAINST WHICH PLANNING FOR AUGUST AFRICAN- U. S. GAMES IN DAKAR IS PROCEEDING. GANGA COMPLAINED THAT USG HAS NOT RESPONDED TO REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE WITH TRAVEL OF AMERICAN TEAM. END SUMMARY.

2. USING AS OCCASION VISIT TO DAKAR BY SCSA SECRETARY GENERAL GANGA, USIS REQUESTED PRESIDENT OF SENEGAL TRACK AND FIELD FEDERATION TO BRING EMBASSY UP TO DATE ON PLANS FOR U. S. AFRICAN TRACK MEET PLANNED FOR DAKAR IN AUGUST.

3. LEARNED THAT GANGA SENT TELEGRAM TO AAU MARCH 9 CONFIRMING MEET WILL TAKE PLACE ON AUGUST 4 AND 5 IN DAKAR AND THAT SENEGAL TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOOD, LODGING, INTERNAL TRAVEL, AND RECEPTION. SCSA WILL FUND AMERICAN ATHLETES TRAVEL FROM EUROPE.

4. GANGA REFERRED AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH TO FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES AND SACRIFICES ENTAILED FOR AFRICANS IN UNDERTAKING TO HOST RETURN MEET. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE COUNCIL WAS INCREDULOUS WHEN IT LEARNED THAT THE AFRICANS WERE TO PAY AIR FARES FOR 80 AMERICANS AND THAT IT WAS PREVAILED UPON TO CONCUR ONLY AFTER SENEGAL

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AGREED TO PAY A PORTION OF THE COST OF TRAVEL OF AFRICAN ATHLETES IN ADDITION TO EXPENSES PARA 3. COUNCIL AGREED TO GO AHEAD WITH MATCH ONLY RELUCTANTLY. GANGA EXPLAINED THAT THE COST TO THE AFRICANS --16 TO 20 MILLION CFA-- REPRESENTS ONE THIRD OF THE ENTIRE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE SCSA AND THAT IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THEIR OBLIGATION TO HOST A RETURN MEET THE AFRICANS ARE FORCED TO DISPENSE COMPLETELY WITH VITALLY NEEDED TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

5. GANGA SAID SCSA HAD NO RESPONSE TO THEIR REQUEST FOR USG ASSISTANCE WITH TRAVEL OF U. S. ATHLETES AND OFFICIALS WHICH WAS SENT FIRST AS EARLY AS JULY OF LAST YEAR IN THE FORM OF A LETTER FROM GANGA TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM (SEE YAOUNDE A-104, JULY 27). THEY HAD COUNTED HEAVILY ON THIS ASSISTANCE AND FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND LACK OF RESPONSE.

6. GANGA AND OTHERS WHO NEGOTIATED WITH AAU FOUND SPIRIT IN WHICH THE NEGOTIATIONS CONDUCTED ON THE AMERICAN SIDE DISTURBING, INTIMATING THAT AAU ATTITUDE WAS HARSH AND UNYIELDING. CITED EXAMPLE OF US TV RIGHTS WHICH AMERICANS INSISTED ON RETAINING EXCLUSIVELY, LEAVING AFRICANS WITH ESSENTIALLY PROFITLESS RIGHTS IN REST OF WORLD. HE COMPARED THIS ATTITUDE WITH THAT OF MEXICANS, WITH WHOM HE ALSO NEGOTIATING, AND WHO OFFERED TO PAY FOR EVERYTHING, INCLUDING SENDING CHARTER FLIGHT TO PICK UP AFRICAN ATHLETES.

7. GANGA SAID COUNCIL COULD NOT POSSIBLY CONTEMPLATE CONTINUING SERIES IN THE FUTURE UNDER CONDITIONS WHICH REQUIRE THEM TO COMPLETELY FORGO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN ORDER TO PAY FOR ONE INTERNATIONAL MEET. NEVERTHELESS, AFRICANS DETERMINED TO CARRY OUT THEIR PART OF BARGAIN AND PROVIDE TO AMERICANS SAME GENEROUS TREATMENT THEY RECEIVED AT DURHAM " AND EVEN MORE".

8. THROUGHOUT GANGA MADE NO REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE OAU GRANT, AS MENTIONED IN STATE 041585. WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT REF AIRGRAM WAS NOT RECEIVED DAKAR UNTIL SEVERAL DAYS AFTER I HAD ASKED PAO TO PROFIT FROM GANGA'S VISIT TO DAKAR IN EFFORT FIND OUT WHAT WAS STATUS OF PROPOSED GAMES.

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ADP-00 /010 W
----- 040756

R 131220 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2865
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCUL, SG
SUBJ: PAN AFRICAN- US TRACK MEET

9. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR FROM GANGA' S REMARKS TO PAO THAT PLANNING IS GOING FORWARD IN ATMOSPHERE OF DISAPPOINTMENT, REPROACH AND FINANCIAL STRESS. WHILE WE CAN UNDERSTAND IT MAY WELL BE INTERNATIONAL CUSTOM IN SUCH AFFAIRS FOR INVITING ORGANIZATION OR COUNTRY TO PICK UP WHOLE TAB, AND IN THIS CASE THEY ARE BOUND CONTRACTUALLY, WE ARE DEALING HERE WITH A GREATLY UNDER FINANCED SPORTS FEDERATION REPRESENTING THE POOREST CONTINENT. ONE IS FORCED TO WONDER WHAT BENEFIT IS GAINED IN INTERNATIONAL GOODWILL FROM SPORTS COMPETITION UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OF GRUDGING COMPLIANCE WITH WHAT APPARENTLY NOW IS SEEN BY THE AFRICANS AS A BAD DEAL, OR WHETHER THIS IS LIKELY TO PROVIDE ANY REAL FUTURE FOR US- AFRICAN SPORTS RELATIONSHIPS. ON THE OTHER HAND, A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE SCSA REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HELP REPRODUCE THE ATMOSPHERE OF GOOD WILL WHICH SURROUNDED THE DURHAM MEET.

10. PAO LEARNED THAT LAMINE DIACK, GOS MINISTER FOR SPORT, HAS EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO SEE ME IN NEAR FUTURE WITH WHAT I ASSUME WILL BE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE US ROLE IN FUNDING SUPPORT. I WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE AT THIS POINT.
CLARK

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